

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A bag (1, 101, 201), comprising:

two opposite faces (1a, 1b) joined together around ~~their whole~~ an entire periphery, ~~with the exception of~~ except for one longitudinal edge, the bag having two joined faces forming an interior with an opening (1d) emerging at said longitudinal edge, the two joined faces forming a rim at the opening sized to be positioned over a peripheral edge of a container,

the two faces of the bag being welded to one another along two opposite lateral edges (2, 3), and

a first face of the two faces ~~at least one face~~ having, near said opening, an elastic band extending from a first of the two lateral edges to a second of the two lateral edges, the elastic band being joined to said first face by at each of the two lateral edges, two connection regions and also joined to the first face at an intermediate joining position between the two lateral edges such that a first length (L1) of the elastic band between each of the two lateral edges is greater than a second length (L2) of the elastic band between

the intermediate joining position and an other joining position, such that said second length (L2) corresponding to an effective relaxed length ~~(L2)~~ of said elastic band between the two connection regions corresponds to a gap between the two connection regions on the bag and is shorter than a length (L1) of the longitudinal edge of said face of the bag, and the elastic band being free of adhesion to said first face along an entirety of the second length (L2),

~~wherein said elastic band extends across a whole width of the bag from a first of the lateral edges to a second of the lateral edges,~~

~~wherein said elastic band is welded to the two faces of the bag at each of said two lateral edges, and~~

~~wherein said elastic band is further welded to the bag at an intermediate connection region, the intermediate connection region forming one of the two connection regions and being at a location spaced from the two lateral edges~~

and the second length (L2) of the elastic band having an elasticity sufficient to, when the rim is positioned over the peripheral edge of the container, i) stretch over the opening to a position on a second of the two faces and ii) exert an elastic force sufficient to hold the rim onto the peripheral edge of the container.

2. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1,

wherein each face of the bag ~~(1, 101)~~ comprises a hem (8) bordering said opening (1d), and

wherein a non-elastic drawstring (6, 106) located in the hem of each face, the non-elastic drawstring configured to be grasped from the outside via at least one notch (12, 112) made through the hem.

3. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein each face of the bag ~~(1, 101)~~ is folded inward ~~[[,]]~~ to form a fold (4) along the longitudinal edge of the bag ~~[[,]]~~ such that a first part of the fold (4) forms the hem (8) and a second part of the fold extends beyond the first part to form a skirt (4b), said elastic band being joined ~~to the corresponding face of the bag~~ at each of the joining positions ~~by~~ to at least partially ~~overlapping~~ overlap said skirt.

4. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein each face of the bag ~~(201)~~ associated with said elastic band is folded inward to form a fold (4) along the longitudinal edge of the bag, ~~such that~~ and said elastic band at each of the joining positions ~~is joined to said face~~ and at least partially ~~overlapping~~ overlaps said fold (4).

5. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic band is further welded to the bag at an additional intermediate ~~connection region~~ joining position (17') located at a position spaced from the two lateral edges (2, 3) and from the intermediate ~~connection region~~ joining position (17), the additional intermediate ~~connection region~~ joining position forming the other ~~of the two connection regions~~ joining position.

6. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the two lateral edges furthest from the intermediate ~~connection region~~ joining position forms the other ~~of the two connection regions~~ joining position.

7. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic band is joined to an inside face of the bag ~~(1, 101)~~.

8. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic band is joined to an outer face of the bag ~~(101)~~.

9. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic band is cut longitudinally into two vertically adjacent tapes (116a, 116b), and the ~~two connection~~

~~regions~~ joining positions lie in vertical extension of one another, so that the two vertically adjacent tapes form a closed loop with the bag, each of the tapes of said loop configured to extend around an opposite side of ~~[[a]]~~ the container.

10. (previously presented) The bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein said elastic band has a degree of elongation of less than 150%.

11-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A series of bags (1, 101, 201), comprising:

a plurality of bags having longitudinal edges and lateral edges, the lateral edges of said bags being attached to one another, said plurality of bags having a longitudinal direction corresponding to longitudinal edges of said bags,

wherein each bag comprises two opposite faces (1a, 1b) joined together around a whole periphery of the bag, ~~with the exception of~~ except for one longitudinal edge, ~~each bag having~~ the two joined faces forming an interior of the bag with an opening (1d) emerging at said longitudinal edge, the two joined faces forming a rim at the opening sized to be positioned over a peripheral edge of a container,

the two faces of each bag being welded to one another along two opposite lateral edges (2, 3) of each bag, and

a first face of the two faces ~~at least one face~~ having, near said opening, an elastic band extending from a first of the two lateral edges to a second of the two lateral edges, the elastic band being joined to said first face by at each of the two lateral edges, two connection regions and also joined to the first face at an intermediate joining position between the two lateral edges such that a first length (L1) of the elastic band between each of the two lateral edges is greater than a second length (L2) of the elastic band between the intermediate joining position and an other joining position, such that said second length (L2) corresponding to an effective relaxed length (L2) of said elastic band between the two connection regions corresponds to a gap between the two connection regions on the bag and is shorter than a length (L1) of the longitudinal edge of said face of each bag, and the elastic band being free of adhesion to said first face along an entirety of the second length (L2),

~~wherein said elastic band extends continuously along a whole length of the series of bags (1, 101, 201), said elastic band being welded to the two faces of each bag at each of said two lateral edges of each bag, and~~

~~wherein said elastic band is further welded to the bag at an intermediate connection region, the intermediate connection region forming one of the two connection regions and being at a location spaced from the two lateral edges~~

and the second length (L2) of the elastic band having an elasticity sufficient to, when the rim is positioned over the peripheral edge of the container, i) stretch over the opening to a position on a second of the two faces and ii) exert an elastic force sufficient to hold the rim onto the peripheral edge of the container.

15. (previously presented) The bag as claimed in claim 10, wherein said elastic band has a degree of elongation of approximately 100%.

16. (currently amended) The ~~bag~~ series of bags as claimed in claim 14, wherein the elastic band is further welded to each bag at an additional ~~intermediate connection region~~ joining position ~~located at a position~~ spaced from the two lateral edges and from the intermediate ~~connection region~~ joining position, the additional intermediate ~~connection region~~ joining position forming the other ~~of the two connection regions~~ joining position.

17. (currently amended) The ~~bag~~ series of bags as claimed in claim 14, wherein one of the two lateral edges furthest from the intermediate ~~connection region~~ joining position forms the other ~~of the two connection regions~~ joining position.

18. (currently amended) A bag, comprising:

first and second opposite faces joined together at a first longitudinal edge and two opposing lateral edges, the two opposing lateral edges spaced from each other by a first length (L1), the first and second faces forming an opening at a second longitudinal edge, and the first longitudinal edge forming a bottom of the bag, the first and second joined faces forming a rim at the opening sized to be positioned over a peripheral edge of a container; and

an elastic band extending longitudinally along a direction of the first length (L1) at a position near the second longitudinal edge, the elastic band joined to ~~each of the two opposing lateral edges and extending between the two opposing lateral edges along one of the first and second faces near the opening~~, the elastic band also joined to the one of the first and second faces at ~~an intermediate connection region at a location spaced from~~ first and second joining positions on the one of the first and second faces, at least



one of the joining positions being spaced from both of the two opposing lateral edges,

wherein an effective relaxed length ~~(L2)~~ of said elastic band corresponds to a second length (L2) between the ~~intermediate connection region and another connection region where the elastic band joins the one of the first and second faces corresponds to a gap between the intermediate connection region and the another connection region and is~~ first and second joining positions, the distance (L2) being shorter than ~~[[a]] the length (L1) of the second longitudinal edge of the one of the first and second faces,~~

wherein the elastic band is free of adhesion to said first face along an entirety of the second length (L2), and

wherein the second length (L2) of the elastic band has an elasticity sufficient to, when the rim is positioned over the peripheral edge of the container, i) stretch over the opening to a position on a second of the two faces and ii) exert an elastic force sufficient to hold the rim onto the peripheral edge of the container.

19. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 18, wherein ~~the another connection region is formed by~~ one of the first and second joining positions is at one of the two lateral edges furthest from the intermediate connection region.

20. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 18, wherein ~~the another connection region is formed by an additional intermediate connection region where the elastic band is joined to the one of the first and second faces, the additional intermediate connection region located at a position~~ both of the first and second joining positions are spaced from the two lateral edges ~~and spaced from the intermediate connection region.~~

21. (new) The bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second length (L2) is sufficient for a person's hand to fit in its entirety between the intermediate joining position and the other joining position.

22. (new) The series of bags as claimed in claim 14, wherein the second length (L2) is sufficient for a person's hand to fit in its entirety between the intermediate joining position and the other joining position.

23. (new) The bag as claimed in claim 18, wherein the second length (L2) is sufficient for a person's hand to fit in its entirety between the first and second joining positions.